



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Kevin Duffy, Commissioner
Doug Mecum, Director

Lower Yukon Area Office
P. O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
(907) 949-1320
Tracy Lingnau, Area Management Biologist

Upper Yukon News Release #05

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YUKON RIVER, SUBDISTRICTS 5-B AND 5-C COMMERCIAL AND SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING SCHEDULES

The Department of Fish and Game is announcing the opening of the commercial fishing season effective 6:00 p.m. Friday July 4, 2003. Fishermen should expect two 12-hour commercial salmon fishing periods for upper Yukon River Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C (which include the villages of Tanana and Rampart). Commercial fishing will be allowed from **6:00 p.m. Friday, July 4, until 6:00 a.m. Saturday, July 5, 2003**, and from **6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, 2003**. Because of possible limited processor capacity, all commercial fishermen must be sure they have a buyer before commercial fishing.

The targeted harvest range for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C is 1,200 – 1,400 chinook salmon. It is anticipated that the commercial harvest range will be achieved within the two 12-hour fishing periods. Provided the fish quality remains high, additional periods may be scheduled if necessary to achieve the targeted harvest range. If the targeted harvest range of 1,200 - 1,400 chinook salmon is taken during the first commercial fishing period, the second commercial period would likely be cancelled. The lower Yukon River test fishery, subsistence harvests and Pilot Station sonar data indicate that the chinook salmon run timing is five to seven days early. At this time, the chinook run appears to better to last year.

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C will remain open for two 48-hour periods per week from **6:00 p.m. Tuesday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday** and from **6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday**. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunities may be increased if commercial fishing closures extends longer than five days.

Additionally, subsistence fishing for non-salmon species, such as whitefish and other non-salmon fish species remains open 7 days per week. Gillnets used for harvesting non-salmon species during salmon fishing closures in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C are restricted to a maximum length of 60 feet and a maximum mesh size of 4-inches. Fish wheels may not be used during closed salmon periods.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a subsistence fishing permit is required for the Haul Road Bridge area of the Yukon River from the mouth of Hess creek to the mouth of the Dall River.

Fishermen in all other areas are encouraged to fill out their subsistence salmon calendars. Permits and salmon calendars are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

**Yukon River Subdistricts 5-B & 5-C Commercial and Subsistence Fishing Schedule
for July 4 to July 10, 2003 (Current as of 7/2/03)**

Thursday July 3	Friday July 4	Saturday July 5	Sunday July 6	Monday July 7	Tuesday July 8	Wednesday July 9
Subsistence Salmon Fishing OPEN	Salmon Fishing CLOSED	Subsistence and Commercial Salmon Fishing OPEN	Subsistence Salmon Fishing OPEN	Salmon Fishing CLOSED	Salmon Fishing CLOSED	Subsistence and Commercial Salmon Fishing OPEN
Until 6:00 p.m.	Until 6:00 p.m.	<u>Commercial CLOSES 6:00 a.m.</u>	Until 6:00 p.m.			<u>Commercial CLOSES 6:00 a.m.</u>
		Subsistence Salmon Fishing Remains <u>OPEN</u>				Subsistence Salmon Fishing Remains <u>OPEN</u>
6:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.		6:00 p.m.		6:00 p.m.	Until 6:00 p.m.
Salmon Fishing CLOSED	Subsistence and Commercial Salmon Fishing OPEN		Salmon Fishing CLOSED		Subsistence and Commercial Salmon Fishing OPEN	Thursday, July 10

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for Federal waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing in the Yukon Area. For further information regarding federal regulations please call 1-800-478-1456.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. For a recording of the current fishing schedule for your area call 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks, in Fairbanks 459-7387). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or in Fairbanks at 459-7274, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office at 949-1798.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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